

Newport Forest

March 31 2002

1:45 - 4:45 pm

Weather: calm, overcast, LM 17 C; FCF 11 C

Purpose: to continue preparing for tree-planting operations

Participants: Kee, Nic

Coming in, we ran into (almost) the forestry consultant hired by the NCc to appraise the timber value of the property. His name is Eric Martin. We decided the ground was too wet for the van, so we walked in, carrying everything we would need. We stopped at the tree station to measure for the door (33.25") and then continued down to the trailer. As we filled the feeders, Martin showed up, following us down to the creek, where we showed him where to ford without getting soakers.

Nic and I dug a total of 32 holes, bringing the total dug to date to 52. We started digging in a separate area near the trailer to provide shade (some day).

We then went into the BCF to bring out the tires, accompanied by the calls of Western Chorus Frogs. As we walked, we could hear another sound, a much stranger one, coming from the meadow side of the forest. At first I thought it was raccoons arguing, a sort of chittering noise with overtones of Raccoon, Grey Tree Frog (if one can imagine that) and even ducks. We decided it must be Wild Turkeys because at times there seemed to be even three separate voices, implying, perhaps, a flock or group of animals. We decided to go up to the Hb to see if Lotor was home. He was -- no room-mate this time. We left DBs.

Birds

Walnut: 2 Northern Cardinals; 1 Brown-headed Cowbird; 2 White-breasted Nuthatches; 1 Meadowlark* (?) (heard)

BCF: 1 Hairy Woodpecker

Trailer: (where we spent very little time) 2 Downy Woodpeckers

*This is a sound I remember hearing as a boy whenever I went into Kennedy's pasture or the Pottersberg Creek area. I'll get it straight eventually.)